WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 4, 2024

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

A session of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners was held at the Administration Building, in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on September 4, 2024.

The meeting was called to order at 07:15 PM by Comm. Hodge, Chair of the Board of Commissioners.

Members Present:	Comms. Shannon Beeman, Justin Hodge, Andy LaBarre, Crystal Lyte, Jason Maciejewski, Yousef Rabhi, Caroline Sanders, Katie Scott, Annie Somerville
Members Absent:	Comms.
Others Present	Greg Dill, County Administrator; Andrew DeLeeuw, Deputy County Administrator; Michelle Billard, Corporation Counsel; Tina Gavalier & Catherine Jones-Alther, Finance; Guillermo Hernandez, Director of Human Resources; Brady Peck, Director of Operations; Terrence Williams, Administration; Jeff Rose, ITS; Ashley Hall, BOC Communications and Operations Manager; Reyanne Gallippo, Clerk's Office; and members of the public.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Gina Dahlem,Ann Arbor, Works as an NP at the shelter and serves on the Board of Health spoke about the budget needs of the Health Department and urged the Board to invest more in the Health Department.

   Nicole Adelman, Ann Arbor, spoke positively about the Health Department and her experiences as a health professional and a county resident. She supports an increase in Health Department funding.

   Chris Frank, Ann Arbor, spoke about fixing structural issues in the Health Department budget.

   Ellen Rabinowitz, Ann Arbor, spoke about the county Health Department and urged the Board to increase the budget. She spoke about line items in the budget specifically.

   Guadalupe Cervantes, Ann Arbor, BOH Member advocated for an increase in the maintenance budget in the Board of Health budget.

   Maria Millitzer, Pittsfield Twp. spoke to advocate for increased funds from the county to support health work. She also spoke about her organization's close work with the county health department.

Marianne Udow-Phillips, Superior Township, also spoke on behalf of the Health Department budget and urged an increase.

Cornelius W., Ypsilanti Township, shared the sentiments of the other speakers about the Health Department budget and he spoke about overdose treatment and harm reduction services in the county. He also spoke about the need for unarmed crisis response for Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township.

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. Sanders asked where the advocates would like the additional funding to go.

Comm. Scott thanked everyone who spoke on behalf of the Public Health budget, She expressed her disappointment with the shortfalls of the budget over the last 32 years.

Comm. Rabhi echoed the sentiments of Comm. Scott and thanked the public for their support and expressed his hope for passing an increased budget.

Comm. Scott spoke about an increase in the population of the county and an increase in the need for funding.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. Somerville gave a report on the Environmental Council and spoke about a resolution that was passed by the Board reallocating unspent funds from the resiliency office and stated that that information would be included in the packet for the next upcoming meeting.

Comm. LaBarre gave a report on the Mental Health Board and their budget passing. He also praised the staff there for their work.

Comm. Sanders gave a report on the Community Action Board and shared that they will have some upcoming vacancies.

Comm. Scott gave a report on the Opioid Settlement steering committee and her wish for the committee to give a report at a working session.

Comm. Lyte gave a report on the groundbreaking ceremony for the new community and recreation center in Superior and Ypsilanti Township.

Comm. Rabhi gave a report from the Parks Commission. He spoke about the contract that they had recently entered into to redesign Pierce Lake Golf Course. He also spoke about the park trademarking its logo.

Comm. Somerville talked about an event in her district called "Rumble at the Bumble" that the County helped sponsor.

Comm. Sanders spoke about the successful groundbreaking for the recreation center.

Comm. LaBarre spoke about the 55th anniversary of the city of Ann Arbor and its sister city and highlighted the celebration happening soon that the county helped to sponsor.

Chair Hodge spoke about the tremendous support that people showed for the groundbreaking.

Comm. Scott talked about her experience at the groundbreaking for the recreation center.

County Administrator Dill thanked the facilities and Crystal Campbell for a successful event.

Comm. Rabhi also thanked Crystal Campbell and congratulated the commissioners on the success of the event. He also thanked everyone else involved with the project and expressed his hopes that everyone watching sees that the project is a priority for the Board. He emphasized the amount of work that still remained. He also stated that it was his mission to serve the residents on the east side of the county.

VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

VII. APPOINTMENTS

1. **24-175** Comm. Rabhi noted the importance of the Materials Management Planning Committee. He asked about the designation of PTIS on Todd Bukowski's appointment.

   Harry, a representative from the Water Resources Commission, clarified that PTIS was a packaging consulting service in Ann Arbor.

   Comm. Rabhi expressed his concern with the two corporate reps that would serve on the committee, representing the landfill and waste management and asked why they were selected.

   He asked if WORMA counted as a solid waste facility.

   Harry specified that it would count but may fit in another category.

   Comm. Rabhi asked Corp. Counsel if he had the ability to vote yes on some appointments and no on others.

   Corporation Counsel affirmed that this was possible.

   Harry stated that there was still time to have discussions about the committee appointments.

   Comm. Rahbi stated that he would probably vote no on the appointments and stated that other people could fill the seats. He noted his reluctance to put someone from the landfill on the committee and his displeasure with the first two applicants.

   Comm. Hodge asked Harry how removing the first two applicants would impact the proceedings of the committee.

   Harry stated that they needed a minimum of 10 members for a meeting, so they would have to return for further appointments anyway. He also stated that they have done outreach to try to get other applicants and this is what they have.

   Comm. Maciejewski spoke about the work that they did to get other applicants.

Comm. Rabhi spoke about his desire for someone from the public to fill the last two votes.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
*Comm. Rabhi voted "NAY" on David Seegert and Paul Manzanec and "YEA" on the remainder of the appointments.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Comm. Scott , seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that CONSENT AGENDA be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.

1. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre moved that Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting, August, 7, 2024 be approved.

2. Chair Hodge stated that the Board received communications from the previous meeting of the Board of Health urging the Board of Commissioners to continue funding the Healthy Neighborhoods Team. He highlighted some of the accomplishments of the Healthy Neighborhoods Team.

   Comm. Scott spoke about previous work on addiction.

   Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that Communications be approved.

   R-0036 RECEIVED: August 15, 2024, Department of Health and Human Services Social Services Board Meeting Minutes, July 10, 2024

   R-0037 RECEIVED: August 15, 2024. Washtenaw County Board of Health: Resolution Calling on Washtenaw County to Continue Investment in the Washtenaw County Health Department's ARPA Healthy Neighborhood Team, July 26, 2024

   R-0038 RECEIVED: August 19, 2024, City of Ann Arbor, Notice of Public Hearing, Washtenaw & East Stadium Area TC1 Rezoning

3. None.

4. None.

5. Approved.

A. Comm. Scott seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that the following reports be received: A report from the Washtenaw County Road Commission on the summary of service requests for the month of July, 2024. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

B. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that the following reports be received: A report on contracts in the amount of $25,000 and under from July 31, 2024, through August, 27, 2024. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

C. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that the following reports be received: A report on budget adjustments between $25,000 and $100,000 for Q2 2024. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

6. None.

IX. RESOLUTIONS

1. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that First Reading be approved .

A. Comm. LaBarre thanked CMH for their presentation and the budget.

Comm. Rabhi asked for clarification on page three of the resolution and the perceived discrepancies in the budget.

Nicole Phelps, CMH Finance Officer, clarified the lines in the budget.

Comm. Rabhi asked where the millage fits into the budget.

Phelps specified where the millage could be found on the budget and where the funds come from.

Comm. Rabhi also asked about planned increases in funds for their sustainability.

Phelps explained that they are planning to assume that there will be reauthorization and that the funds will be used to close gaps in funding.

Comm. Rabhi thanked CMH for their detailed budget and asked CMH to speak about the County Deficit Reduction Program.

Nicole Phelps and Trish Cortes from CMH simplified this program and gave an anticipated timeline of the next 30-60 days.

Comm. Rahbi also asked for an explanation of the group home leases which CMH provided.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he was happy that CMH is looking to purchase some of the homes that they currently lease.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the creation of positions in CMH. Phelps and Cortes spoke more about these positions.

Chair Hodge asked about the shortage of Psychiatrists and why positions are hard to fill.

Cortes spoke about the issues of pay and contracts.

Comm. Rabhi asked about current staff and asked for clarifications which Cortes provided. He also inquired about the difference in pay between the existing positions and what CMH proposed. Cortes and Phelps provided the information.

Comm. LaBarre highlighted the problems with psychiatrist's pay and the work of Dr. Florence.

Comm. Maciejewski asked for clarification on the CMH fund balance.

Phelps talked about how they were using the funds and how they cover people with and without Medicaid.

Comm. Macijewski also asked about upcoming items and if they were factored into the budget.

Phelps specified the items that were included in the budget and clarified that they do not have their specific rates yet.

Comm. Maciejewski commended the CMH team for all the work that they have done.

Comm. Lyte echoed these sentiments and asked for clarification on the CCBHC and if it pertained to out of county residents as well.

Cortes stated that they do not turn anyone away but they try their best to get people to their home county for services.

Comm. Lyte asked if caseload would be decreased by a decrease in people without Medicaid. Cortes spoke to this.

Voice vote - motion carried.

B. Comm. Rabhi asked for clarification on the reasoning for the language in the resolution regarding waving of bid requirements.

Ellis Johnson, Finance Operations Manager, OCED, stated that the language included in the resolution was atypical but bid waivers would be sought out because the agencies are the existing agencies who are already performing the work.

Comm. Rabhi inquired if those existing agencies were still subject to the guidelines put in place by the county.

Johnson affirmed that the county would still hold the existing contractors to the county standards.

Speaking about hotel stays that are funded by the county, Comm. Rabhi asked about the budget breakdown and how much of the funding is going to staff versus how much is going to pay for hotel rooms.

Dan Kelly, Executive Director SAWC, specified that the funds were going to case management, which helps to reduce hotel stays and find more permanent solutions.

County Administrator Dill asked for more time to get a definitive answer to Comm. Rabhi's questions.

Comm. Rabhi stated he wanted to know what the county was getting for $50,000. He also stated that a non-profit was taking over what the county previously handled pertaining to obtaining hotel rooms for residents. He stated that he would like to avoid duplication and expressed his confusion.

Johnson stated the observation that, based on experience, having case management with hotel stays, makes the program more successful, reduces the length of stays and identifies more resources for people in need to move to the next steps.

Comm. Rabhi asked if the administrator would still be booking hotel rooms in addition to the case manager listed in the budget.

County Administrator Dill stated that his office will still respond to emergency situations and that there will be a response from his team when any commissioner calls.

Comm. Rabhi asked for clarification on seemingly identical line items and why two non-profits were performing the same tasks.

Kelly spoke about their longstanding relationships with the two non-profits and the way that they work together to perform dynamic tasks. He also stated that they would provide more information on all questions at the next meeting.

Brady Peck, Director of Operations, also provided some insight on the two non-profits and the money going to staffing.

Comm. Rabhi asked how the budget this year compared to previous years' budgets.

Kelly stated that he believed that the numbers were similar to the previous year, but they had been increasing because of different needs and structure.

Comm. Rabhi expressed his disagreement with Comm. LaBarre's earlier statement regarding the best entities to provide services and stated that the investment could expand the county's capacity to do more work. He also stated his desire for county funding to be highlighted in non-profits and for the taxpayers to be highlighted as donors.

Kelly talked about his appreciation for commissioners and how they worked with him.

Comm. Rabhi spoke about his desire to list the taxpayers as donors and display it on the donor list. He asked the County Administrator if the county was could provide fast services to county residents that adheres to county policy.

The County Administrator assured Comm. Rabhi that the county was prepared and that that county was working hard to insure that mistakes that were made in the past are not repeated.

Regarding lump sum payments, Comm. Rabhi asked for a status update.

County Administrator Dill stated his desire to speak with Toni (Kayumi) about the status of the payments.

Comm. Rabhi spoke about his disappointment over the delays and stated that the Board was willing to provide staff if needed.

Administrator Dill assured the Board that there would be more information at the next meeting.

Comm. Somerville thanked Dan Kelly and his team and expressed her excitement to see money put toward prevention and diversion. She also highlighted the fact that case management was being added to the budget as it has been a need for years.

Comm. Somerville moved to add a whereas clause containing language requiring any organization that receives funding to provide a survey of people receiving services that would be reported back to the county by Dec. 2024.

Comm. Rabhi questioned if there were specific things the survey should ask and stated he wanted to understand the goal of the survey.

Comm. Somerville stated that the purpose of the survey is to see how people who are served by the county evaluate the county's services.

Comm. Somerville made a motion that surveys would be given to those that were provided service so we know how successful things are.

Comm. Beeman stated that the county could create a survey that is delivered by the organizations.

Ellis Johnson stated that this is something that his office could work on.

Comm. Lyte stated that there is a need for information on who is providing what services and that there should be some tracking on how funding is being spent.

County Administrator Dill stated he thanked the commissioners and that there was a lot of work left to do.

Comm. Sanders thanked Comm. Somerville for proposing the amendment. She spoke about her experiences utilizing non-profit services and spoke about the way that people in need are treated. Comm. Sanders spoke about her desire for people seeking services to be treated with the same level of dignity as people who do not need help. Speaking about hosteling, she stated that she has called staff in emergencies, and they have worked with commissioners to take action. She also stated that even the funds that they are requesting may not be enough.

Comm. Somerville stated that there could be further conversation at the Working Session regarding the layers of the homelessness issue.

Comm. Maciejewski clarified that the clause should be a "Resolved" clause instead of a "Whereas" clause.

Amendment passed via Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

Comm. LaBarre stated his belief that sentiments expressed by his colleagues are legitimate but the organizations who are tasked with fulfilling the duties have the capacity to handle the issues. He also expressed his appreciation for the Continuum of Care group that provides services and that there will need to be more funds in the future.

Comm. Sanders responded to Comm. LaBarre and stated some of her beliefs about holding partners accountable and stated that the partnership is a two way street.

Voice vote - motion carried.

C. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Rabhi to make a motion to amend the resolution with an assurance that the admin comes back to BOC with a proposal to increase the maintenance of effort budget at the first meeting in October.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Amendment passed.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the proposed fee increases and asked for clarifications on how services are billed. A representative explained the way that fees are charged to Comm. Rabhi.

Comm. Rabhi also asked for figures on insured vs. non-insured. A representative from the Health Department gave general figures.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the impact that the lack of funding would have on providing services and the representative stated that when their funds run out, they will no longer be able to provide services on a sliding scale.

Comm. Rabhi inquired about the last item in the budget. He also asked about changes in restaurant fees. The representatives spoke to both of these issues.

Voice vote - motion carried.

D. Voice vote - motion carried.

E. Comm. Rabhi asked about a county match for the program. The chair clarified that no match was required.

Voice vote - motion carried.

F. Comm. Rabhi asked if the positions were union or non-union positions. A representative specified that they were union positions. He expressed his appreciation for union/ non-union status being listed in the budget and stated that he would like this to be in all future communications.

Voice vote - motion carried.

2.

A. **24-176** Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

B. **24-177** Comm. Rabhi stated that he was voting no on this resolution as it was unnecessary and improper. Comm. Sanders stated that she would be voting no as well. Comm. Scott stated that she would like to vote no but that the resolution is necessary for the people receiving the services and that people should be receiving a living wage for the work that they do.

Comm Beeman stated that there is a reimbursement limit for the wages that are not controlled by Washtenaw County. She also echoed the sentiments of Comm. Scott and urged people to call their congresspeople.

Comm Hodge agreed and stated that the community could not be put at risk of not receiving this funding.

Comm. Maciejewski stated that the rate is set by MDHHS and urged people to advocate at a higher level.

Comm. LaBarre and Comm. Lyte echoed the sentiments of their colleagues.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 6 NAYS 3 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

C. **24-178** Comm Rabhi spoke about his opposition to the resolutions on the grounds that the budget increase was too substantial and that they could seek other services. He also stated that the funds could be used for any building that is 50 years or older and that this widened the parameters too broadly. He stated that he would vote no.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 1 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

D. **24-179** Kayla Garcia Rodriguez, Ypsilanti Twp. spoke about her internship at the Washtenaw County Racial Equity Office and drafting resolutions. Kayla emphasized the importance of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

The Board of Commissioners praised Kayla and thanked her for her work with the county.

Comm. Rabhi, seconded by Comm. Lyte, moved to amend the resolution language and remove the section that states, ", including Justice Sonya Sotomayor of the Supreme Court of the United States, Senator Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico, Senator Bob Menendez of New Jersey, Senator Catherine Cortéz Masto of Nevada, Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, and Representative Alejandra Ocasio-Cortés of New York"

Comm. LaBarre asked for clarification on the intent of the amendment. Comm. Rabhi provided further explanation.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Amendment passed.
Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

3. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Beeman, moved that Approval of Claims be approved.

A. **24-180** Voice vote - motion carried.

X. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Friday 11-2 is the County Cookout

XI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

None.

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

Comm. Scott spoke about radioactive waste coming to Belleville and asked the commissioners to think about what Washtenaw County could do to help.

Comm. Rahbi stated that he was in the legislature in 2018 and was present when this was being voted on.

Comm. Sanders reported on the ribbon cutting at "We Rock The Spectrum", a gym for children on the Autism spectrum.

Comm. Beeman wanted to recognize the school shooting that happened in Georgia.

XIII. PENDING

None.

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

Comm. LaBarre moved to adjourn. Voice vote - motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 PM.

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Justin Hodge, Chair of the Board of Commissioners

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Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Ashlyn Poole, Deputy Clerk
Board Approved: September 18, 2024